



# **KyHealth Choices**

## **Bimonthly Update**

### **September 2007**

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#### **Public Forum**

The next "Ask the Medicaid Commissioner" forum will be held 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Blue Grass Community Action Partnership office, 111 Professional Court, Frankfort, Kentucky, in the conference room on the lower level of the building. Directions are provided below. All *KyHealth Choices* members and their guardians, providers, advocacy organizations and staff are invited to attend to learn and ask questions about what is new with *KyHealth Choices*.

Requests for accommodations should be made to [lynne.flynn@ky.gov](mailto:lynne.flynn@ky.gov) or (502) 564-4321 no later than two weeks in advance of the meeting date.

**Directions:** From I-64, take Exit 58. Turn onto Versailles Road, away from downtown Frankfort and toward Versailles. Turn right onto Millville Road (first traffic light past the interstate interchange). Take the third right onto Corporate Drive. Take the second left onto Laneview Drive. Take the first right onto Professional Court. The meeting will be held on the lower level of the Blue Grass CAP building. Please use the parking lot to the right of the building.

#### **Welcome Commissioner Crouch/Farewell Commissioner Jennings**

Effective Sept. 1 2007, Shawn Crouch has been appointed the new commissioner of the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS).

Commissioner Crouch has served most recently as the chief of staff for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), and prior to that as the executive director for the Office of Health Policy and executive officer to the Undersecretary for Health. Commissioner Crouch has also served as the director of government relations for CHA Health and has experience working in hospitals and physician practices. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in Health Administration. A Kentucky native, he currently resides in Lexington.

Former Medicaid Commissioner Glenn Jennings has retired with over 38 years of public and private sector health care service. He also served the Fletcher administration as the former executive director of the Kentucky Office of Insurance. Jennings has overseen the successful replacements of Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS) in several states, including Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi.

"Glenn Jennings' return to Medicaid was a successful capstone to a strong public service career," said Health and Family Services Cabinet Secretary Mark D. Birdwhistell. "The implementation of a new Kentucky MMIS system completes one of the major Medicaid modernization efforts and I thank Glenn for his efforts."

#### **Federal Agency Approves Medicaid Waiver for Enhanced Community Services**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved a new Medicaid waiver that will increase Kentucky's ability to provide community services to individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities through *KyHealth Choices*.

The 1915C waiver, approved Aug. 29, will provide non-residential supports and services needed by individuals with mental retardation or developmental disabilities to enable them to live safely in the community, rather than in institutions.

The program will first be available to serve the approximately 3,000 individuals on the Supports for Community Living (SCL) waiting list. Those individuals may choose to stay on the waiting list for residential services while receiving community supports through the new waiver. The

new waiver may provide services for up to 10,000 people in the first year. In each of the following two years, the capacity to serve 2,000 more people will be added.

The new waiver program will provide home and community based services (personal care, homemaker services, respite, adult day health, attendant care and minor home adaptations), case management services, behavioral supports, community living supports, supported employment and adult day training. Individuals must meet the level of care criteria for placement in an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) and may receive up to 50 hours of services each week.

The anticipated start date for the new waiver program is Jan. 1, 2008.

### ***Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Long Term Waiver***

DMS submitted a new waiver application to CMS on July 18. The ABI Long Term Waiver is designed to provide long-term supports for up to 200 individuals with brain injuries once they have worked through the intensive rehabilitation phase. DMS has responded to one set of questions from CMS reviewers and is waiting for completion of the review process.

### ***Money Follows the Person (MFP) Grant***

This \$49 million, five-year grant was awarded to Kentucky by CMS in May. Kentucky plans to transition 546 people who want to live in the community from nursing facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) for persons with mental retardation or developmental disabilities to community services with this funding. This program is expected to begin on Jan. 1, 2008.

The MFP steering committee began meeting in July and will continue to meet monthly. This broad-based committee comprised of advocates and providers from all sectors of Kentucky's long-term care and disability communities will advise CHFS on implementation of the program. In addition, eight work groups are meeting to identify barriers and suggest solutions. The results of the work groups and Steering Committee input will be used to develop a detailed operational protocol due to CMS by Nov. 1, 2007.

### ***Self Directed Option***

In addition to the Consumer Directed Option (CDO) program within the three waivers, Kentucky is working to develop the next step in self-determination. DMS is currently developing a state plan amendment to provide services for individuals with disabilities through a pilot self-directed option. The pilot is planned to serve 200 individuals in various parts of the state who are eligible for Home and Community Based (HCB), ABI or Support for Community Living (SCL) waiver services. Through SDO, these individuals will create a highly personal budget and services plan specifically designed to meet their unique health needs. DMS has submitted two drafts to CMS for review and comment. We hope to be able to submit the final state plan amendment soon for their approval.

### ***Goods and Services***

"Goods and Services" is a new CDO service which is being incorporated into the Medicaid waivers. It involves purchasing items or services which reduce the waiver participant's need for personal care or enhance his or her independence within the home or community. The specific items purchased are highly personalized based on the participant's individual needs, and are written into the participant's support spending plan.

CMS has approved Kentucky's goods and services amendment for the HCB and SCL waivers. The amendment has been submitted for the ABI waiver and this service definition was incorporated into the new Michelle P and ABI Long Term waiver applications discussed above. The anticipated start date for goods and services in the HCB and SCL waivers is Nov. 1, 2007.

### ***Supports for Community Living (SCL) Updates***

As a result of implementing CDO, and revised regulation 907 KAR 1:145E effective July 12, 2007, the following changes have been made to the SCL MAP forms and Manual. To view a copy of these changes, visit the SCL page at <http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/scl.htm>.

Effective Sept. 10, 2007, DMS is implementing a new process for obtaining Level of Care (LOC) determination. LOC will no longer be obtained by phone calls to the Quality Improvement Organization (SHPS). Request for LOC will be faxed to SHPS along with the completed MAP 351, Assessment/Reassessment. Please use a fax cover sheet for each person and indicate the action being requested and state which waiver the individual is in (SCL). Retain the dated fax confirmation notice for proof of faxing activity in case of a problem. The fax number is (800) 807-8843. This process will be outlined in the revised SCL manual that will be incorporated by reference when the ordinary regulation (907 KAR 1:145) becomes effective.

### ***Breast Cancer Awareness Month - October***

Medicaid will be sending postcards throughout the month of October to all Medicaid eligible female members statewide between the ages of 40 to 64 excluding the Passport region. The postcard includes information on the importance of routine screenings, risk factors and changes or symptoms that may or could lead to breast cancer. The total number of postcards for Breast Cancer Awareness Month will be 55,749.

### ***Diabetes Centers of Excellence (DCOE) Update***

In 2006, the Kentucky General Assembly provided funding to six Diabetes Centers of Excellence (DCOE) demonstration project sites. The program aims to help Medicaid members and others with diabetes better manage their disease through a unique partnership involving the patient, primary care physician, local health departments and other community resources.

The DCOE sites are located in Barren River District, Floyd County, Lake Cumberland District, Lincoln Trail District, Madison County and Purchase District Health Departments. The dedicated staff of the DCOE works with patients, providing care coordination, patient self-management education and behavior change support. The care coordination component works to link Medicaid members who have diabetes to services and resources in a coordinated way to maximize the member's potential and provide them with optimal healthcare. Paula Hollon, RN, MSN, CDE, Care Coordinator, Madison County Health Department remarked, "We help the patients navigate through a complicated system in order to remove barriers that stand in the way of improving their health and quality of life."

Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT), offered mostly as group classes, provides information on healthy eating, being active, monitoring, taking medication, problem solving, healthy coping and reducing risks for chronic complications. Margaret Maupin-Story, RD, CDE a DCOE team member stated, "Being part of the DCOE and DSMT, definitely gives the patient an edge over those who are not enrolled. It gives them insight into the relationship between medication, healthy eating, physical activity and controlling their diabetes to prevent complications. This training gives participants a basic understanding that every person with diabetes needs to know to be able to successfully manage their disease." Participants identify behavior change goals related to the DSMT topic areas. One Medicaid participant reported, "I have lost over 75 pounds since going to your classes. In all the years I've had diabetes, no one had ever taught me how to eat food in the right way before. Now I know what I need to do."

More than 15,000 Medicaid members over 18 years of age have been identified as having diabetes in the 33 counties served by the DCOE sites. It is key to the success of this project and to the health of Kentuckians with diabetes that all of the partners involved in providing care come together to help to reduce this overwhelming burden on individuals and the health care system.

***Medicaid in Partnership with Pfizer to Provide Health Screenings in Two Diabetes Centers of Excellence (DCOE) Locations***

Medicaid in partnership with Pfizer will be conducting two health screenings in two of the six DCOE locations in the month of October. The first one will take place in Floyd County on Oct. 12, 2007. The second location will be Graves County, Purchase District on Oct. 30, 2007. Medicaid members with a diagnosis of diabetes will be sent invitations to these health screenings.

***Medicaid Member Handbook***

Good News! The Medicaid (KyHealth Choices) Member Handbook will be available in September. The Handbook contains practical information about KyHealth Choices Benefit Plans, Important Telephone Numbers and Web sites, Prior Authorization, How to Get Transportation Services, Choosing or Changing Your Primary Care Provider (PCP), Emergency Room Use, 24-Hour Nurse Information Line and other important topics useful for members, providers and case managers alike. When the member Handbook is completed, it will be available on the KyHealth Choices website at <https://kyhealthchoices.fhsc.com> or by calling the KyHealth Choices Call Center at (800) 635-2570. You may also view a copy of the new member handbook on DMS's website at <http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/default.htm>.